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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this Patent Application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks. No additional claim fee is required for this Amendment as the number of independent claims (3) has not changed, and the total number of claims is not more than originally filed (27).

Request for Telephone Interview

Applicants kindly request the Examiner to contact the undersigned, Mark Swanson, at (847) 490-1400 to schedule a telephone interview if any issue remains.

Amendments to the Claims

Applicants amended Claim 13 to clarify the claimed invention by removing limitations identified by the Examiner as indefinite.

Applicants amended Claim 28 to depend from Claim 32 instead of Claim 1. Applicants amended Claim 29 to depend from Claim 28 instead of canceled Claim 9.

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Applicants added new Claims 32-38. Support for this Amendment can be found, for example, in FIGS. 1, 2, and 8, and page 9, first full paragraph, of Applicants' Specification, and in pending Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, and 30.

No new matter has been added to the claims by this Amendment.

Claim Rejection -U.S.C. § 112

Claims 13-22, 24, 25, 29, and 31 have been rejected for the reasons on page 2 of the Office Action. Claim 13 has been amended to remove the limitations identified by the Examiner as indefinite. Claim 29 has been corrected to depend from Claim 28. and Claims 24, 25, and 31 have been canceled.

Applicants believe the above Amendment overcomes the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Applicants request the Examiner contact the undersigned if any further change is deemed necessary.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 24, 25, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Design Patent D455,025 to Weitzman et al. (hereinafter "Weitzman"). This rejection is rendered moot, as Claims 24, 25, and 31 have been canceled.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank Examiner Chen for his efforts in indicating the allowance of Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11, 12, and 30, and that Claims 13-20 and 22 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants amended Claim 13 to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, thereby placing Claims 13-30 and 22 in condition for allowance.

New Claim 32 recites a portable desk having a base shoulder and a top portion tab portion that form an integrated carry handle in the closed position. New Claim 32, and all claims depending therefrom, are also patentable over the prior art.

Conclusion

It is believed that the above Amendment places all pending claims in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner detect any remaining issue or have any question, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned by telephone, in an effort to expedite examination of this Patent Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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